



Town of Camden
Minutes of the Select Board Meeting
April 1, 2014
6:30pm

PRESENT: Chairperson Martin Cates, John French, Jr., James Heard, Leonard Lookner, Don White, and Town Manager Finnigan. Also present were members of the press and public.

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

B. Communications, Presentations, and Recognitions

1. Ragged Mountain Redevelopment Project Update

Parks and Recreation Director Landon Fake updated the Board on logging operations currently underway to clear trails at the Camden Snow Bowl. He said they are clearing a total of 15 acres which will increase the ski terrain by a third to a total of 60 acres. Fake reported that the ski area may open a 6th day rather than just five days a week and that strategic price increases are being considered. He also said that he is implementing a new marketing and sales structure for the staff.

Fake answered questions from the Board regarding lodge capacity and LED lights being installed.

C. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the Board.

Don White thanked the Budget Committee for their work over the past several weeks. He also noted that the Chamber's Business and Community Expo was coming up on April 9th.

D. Approval of Select Board Minutes

John French made a motion to approve the minutes of the Select Board meeting dated March 18, 2014. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

E. Select Board Member Reports

Don White said that the Planning Board would be meeting to review the redevelopment project.

F. Town Manager Report

The Town Manager thanked the 23 members of the Budget Committee for their work on the FY15 Budget and summarized some of the highlights of the budget process. Finnigan also reported that the Dam Committee had met and thanked Ross Parker for paying close attention to lake levels.

The Town Manager added that the Town is now entering the fourth quarter of the fiscal year and that the budget looks on target for the time of year.

G. New Business

1. Enter into a contract with Murphy Appraisal Service, Inc. to provide professional assessing services

Donald White made a motion to table this item. James Heard seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of the Harbor Committee's recommendation to Amend the Harbor Ordinance: Article VI, Section 2.C "Outer Harbor Piers"

Gene McKeever, Chair of the Harbor Committee, presented a recommendation for an ordinance change that had been supported unanimously by the Committee. He said their recommendation is to amend the Harbor Ordinance to eliminate wording in the Consolidated Piers section concerning permission for new piers in the outer harbor. He said they had researched the matter with the Town Attorney and the Code Enforcement Officer, neither of whom had found any issues with the recommendation.

McKeever described reasons that the change is being recommended. Aesthetics was a primary reason, he said, since the beauty of Camden's harbor attracts visitors and is worth protecting. McKeever pointed out that additional piers are visible from the top of Mt. Battie. Additionally, safety for small water craft such as kayaks and the Yacht Club junior sailing program boats was an important consideration he said, due to the fact that more piers present obstacles and navigational hazards in what's already a crowded harbor.

Cates and French expressed the view that the rights of property owners to construct piers would be affected by the ordinance change. They felt that this would reduce the values of the properties and would in turn negatively affect property tax revenue and would have an impact on salability of those specific properties. Heard said he'd rarely seen a case where money trumps aesthetics.

Depth of the water at the end of the piers was discussed, as were alternative uses of the piers other than for bringing in boats.

Harbor Committee members addressed the Board including Stephen Gold, Ben Ellison and Sandy Welte.

Don White suggested that more time be allowed for review of this matter and that there

was not a rush to get it on the June ballot.

Leonard Lookner made a motion to schedule a public hearing on this matter for the May 20th meeting of the Select Board, with the possibility of putting it on the November ballot. James Heard seconded this motion.

Don White made a motion to amend the motion to schedule this matter for a public hearing at the July 15th meeting of the Select Board. John French seconded this motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-2-0, (Lookner and Heard opposed).

A vote was called on the amended motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-2-0, (Lookner and Heard opposed).

3. Report of the Harbor Master re: 2014 Daysailor Schedule

Harbormaster Steve Pixley presented the 2014 Daysailor Schedule. He noted that Owl had been added this year, and that the group had determined that 3-hour trips for Owl would be more workable than 4-hour trips that had been discussed earlier. Pixley said all the permit holders were in agreement with the schedule as presented.

Pixley answered questions from Board members. There was some discussion among the Board regarding Betselma's permit and other matters pertaining to the schedule.

The two owners of Camden Harbor Cruises, which operates Lively Lady and Betselma, spoke briefly concerning their boats' operations. Ben Ellison also spoke to the Board in support of the schedule, noting how all the captains had worked hard on it and had agreed upon it as presented.

James Heard thanked the captains and Pixley for figuring out a suitable daysailor schedule.

4. Public Hearings: Liquor License Renewals

Chairperson Cates opened a public hearing.

a) Application of Whitehall Inn Operating Company, d/b/a Whitehall Inn, located at 52 High Street, for a Class 1 Hotel Malt, Spirituous and Vinous Liquor License.

b) Application of Brian Hill, d/b/a *Seabright*, located at 7 Public Landing, for a Class I Restaurant Malt, Spirituous and Vinous Liquor License

Leonard Lookner made a motion to approve the liquor license renewals for Whitehall Inn Operating Company, d/b/a Whitehall Inn, located at 52 High Street, for a Class 1 Hotel Malt, Spirituous and Vinous Liquor License and Brian Hill, d/b/a Seabright, located at 7 Public Landing, for a Class I Restaurant Malt, Spirituous and Vinous Liquor License. James Heard seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Set Dates for April Select Board meetings

Pat Finnigan told the Board that they would need to schedule a meeting for April 29th to

sign the warrant.

Leonard Lookner made a motion to include April 29th in the Board meeting schedule for April. Don White seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Select Board Closing Comments

I. Consideration of a request for a Poverty Abatement *(Executive Session 36 M.R.S.A. 841.2.E)*

Don White made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into Executive Session to discuss a poverty abatement under 36 M.R.S.A. 841.2.E. John French seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Brace
Recording Secretary